

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

618663

DATE DISTR. 19 September 1954

SUBJECT Increased Drilling Program in SMV Oil Fields

NO. OF PAGES 2 1 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. During June 1954, the SMV drilling office at Prottes turned over the following oil wells to the producing fields (Foerderbetriebe):

	<u>Depth of Drilling</u>	<u>Average Daily Output in Tons</u>
Muehlberg Tower # 99	1,678 m.	65.07
Muehlberg Tower # 104	1,725 m.	55.13
Prottes Tower ¹ # 8	1,786 m.	56.09

2. As of 7 July, the SMV Drilling Office at Prottes had taken on 70 new workers and was planning to add another 300 by the end of July. The reason was that the deep-drilling operations of the SMV had been increased in an attempt to make 16 new wells available to the producing fields by 31 August 1954.²

3. The increased deep-drilling operations were approved by the SMV authorities because the overall production of crude oil was behind schedule. Some geologists at Prottes expressed the view that the new wells were not worthwhile, since they estimated that the cost of drilling would be at least equal to the returns from the increased production.

4. The SMV Construction Office (Bau und Montage) hired [redacted] during July. It was reported that Motor Pool (Autobase) III at Ernes [redacted] reactivated recently because of the increased drilling program. [redacted] were reportedly hired by the SMV for work in motor pools.

Comment. Presumably the "Prottes" tower is in either the Matzen or Schoenkirchen field.

- 2 Comment. [redacted] the number of workers taken on at the drilling unit as 400. [redacted] the planned number of new producing wells as 13 and stated that the new drilling operations would include drilling south of the Danube, in the area between Fischamund and the Neusiedler Lake. Also during July, there were newspaper reports of new test-drillings and [redacted] in the SMV [redacted] fields.

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